

## Omary

### **Tanzanian school children like Omary are learning new farming skills at school, and then sharing the benefits with the whole community.**

Omary is a primary school pupil who lives in a small village in north east Tanzania. He lives with his mother, sister and niece. Like the other families in the village, Omary and his family live off the land around them. They keep a few animals and chickens and try to grow food to eat on a small plot of land.



Primary education is free in Tanzania, but until recently it wasn't teaching Omary what he really needed to know – practical farming and livestock care. However, all that changed when his primary school became part of FARM-Africa's Agricultural and Environmental Education Project which is operating in the area.

As part of this, the teachers at his school have received the training and equipment that they need to set up demonstration plots and teach children how to grow heartier, healthier crops. Simple techniques such as how to drip feed plants using a plastic bottle can help scarce water supplies go much further.

The real benefit of this project can be seen at Omary's home. Using the skills that he has been taught at school his family's plot is now yielding more food than ever before and he is even growing some trees to create shade.

Omary has also been learning at school about the benefits of energy saving stoves. Not only do they produce less smoke and harmful fumes for the family to breathe in, but they also need less wood to fuel them. This means that less wood needs to be cut down in the nearby forest and the family can spend less time out collecting it.

This isn't quite as easy for Omary to show his mother, so they have been loaned an energy saving stove so that they can show the whole village all the benefits that they can bring. As you can see – the effects of FARM-Africa's schools project go well beyond the school gates. Life is improved for whole communities and the environment even benefits too!